

Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2013
Central Bridge Water District
Post Office Box 122 Central Bridge, New York 12035
Public Water Supply ID# NY4700093

INTRODUCTION

To comply with State and Federal regulations, the Central Bridge Water District must issue a report describing the quality of your drinking water annually. The purpose of this report is to raise your understanding of drinking water and awareness of the need to protect our drinking water sources. This report provides an overview of last year's water quality. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to State standards.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your drinking water, contact District Superintendent Robert Barratiere, 868-2158 (at water plant) or the Schoharie County Department of Health, 295-8382. We want you to be informed about your drinking water. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled District Board meetings held at the Central Bridge Methodist Church located on Church Street, Central Bridge. The meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month at 7:30 PM. T.D.D. 1-800-662-1220. "This is an equal Opportunity Program, discrimination is prohibited by Federal law, Complaints of discrimination may be filed with USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights Room 326-w, Whitten Building, 14th and independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410.

WHERE DOES OUR WATER COME FROM?

In general, the sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activities. Contaminants that may be present in source water include: microbial contaminants; inorganic contaminants; pesticides and herbicides; organic chemical contaminants; and radioactive contaminants. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the State and the EPA prescribe regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The State Health Department's and the FDA's regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

Our water source draws its water from 2 surface water reservoirs; The Upper Scott Brook Reservoir, which has a capacity of 25 million gallons and the Lower Scott Brook Reservoir, which has a capacity of 32 million gallons. Water from the Lower Scott Brook Reservoir is gravity fed to the Slow Sand Filtration Water Treatment Plant located at the end of Voegel Road. The Reservoirs are located west of Voegel Road and south of County Route 9.

The Slow Sand Filtration Plant is designed to filter particulates, bacteria, algae and harmful microorganisms. Chlorine is added to the water to disinfect and kill any small microorganisms that may pass through the filter. The water is no longer fluoridated and you may wish to consult with your health care provider on the necessity of fluoride supplements for children's teeth. The treated water is held in two 65,000 -gallon storage tanks at the treatment plant. The water flows by gravity to the hamlet and serves approximately 560 people through approximately 240 services. Total production in 2013 was approximately 16,016,000 gallons – an average of 43,879 gallons per day. Total production in 2012 was approximately 17,170,000 gallons – an average of 46,900 gallons per day. Total production in 2011 was approximately 19,218,000 gallons – an average of 52,652 gallons per day. Total production in 2010 was approximately 18,108,000 gallons – an average of 49,611 gallons per day. Total water production reported in year 2009 was approximately 21,454,000 million gallons – an average of 58,778 gallons per day. The system is regulated by the Schoharie County Department of Health at 295-8382. Our water rates are \$ 90 per quarter per connection (as of 01/01/2005). There will be times during water line flushing, water main breaks and heavy use during structure fires where the water may be discolored or cloudy. Please contact the District so appropriate actions may be taken to resolve the problem. There are times in the year when iron and manganese are present in the water at levels high enough to cause water color problems, usually in the summer. See other sections of the report for further details.

It should be noted that all drinking water, including bottled drinking water, might be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained

by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791) or the Schoharie County Department of Health at 295-8382. The NYS DOH website is www.health.state.ny.us - go to "Health & Safety in the Workplace & Outdoors", then "Drinking Water".

Source Water Assessment Summary

The NYS DOH has completed a source water assessment for this system, based on available information. Possible and actual threats to this drinking water source were evaluated. The state source water assessment includes a susceptibility rating based on the risk posed by each potential source of contamination and how easily contaminants can move to the reservoirs. The susceptibility rating is an estimate of the potential for contamination of the source water, it does not mean that the water delivered to consumers is, or will become contaminated. See section "Are there contaminants in our drinking water?" for a list of the contaminants that have been detected. The source water assessments provide resource managers with additional information for protecting source waters into the future.

As mentioned before, our water is derived two reservoirs. Agricultural land cover has a high potential impact to the reservoirs because of protozoa contaminants. New sources of microbial contaminants or phosphorus could cause water quality problems due to the natural sensitivity of the reservoirs and could have a medium to high impact on them. The source water assessment has given natural sensitivity ratings for contaminants. The source water assessment has given the reservoirs a low natural sensitivity to halogenated solvents, petroleum products, and other industrial organics. The source water assessment has given the reservoirs a medium natural sensitivity to pesticides, herbicides, metals, nitrates, sediments, turbidity, and disinfection by-product precursors (natural organic matter). The source water assessment has given the reservoirs a high natural sensitivity to phosphorus, protozoa, enteric bacteria and enteric viruses. The source water assessment has not rated the land use susceptibility to halogenated solvents, petroleum products, other industrial organics, pesticides, herbicides, metals, nitrates, sediments, turbidity, cations/anions (salts, sulfate), disinfection by-product precursors because of low contaminant prevalence. The source water assessment has given a medium-high susceptibility rating to phosphorus, enteric bacteria, and enteric viruses because of a low contaminant prevalence rating, pasture in the watershed and a high natural sensitivity. The source water assessment has given a high susceptibility rating to protozoa because of a medium contaminant prevalence rating, pasture in the watershed, and a high natural sensitivity. While the source water assessment rates our reservoirs as being susceptible to protozoa, enteric bacteria and enteric viruses, please note that our water is filtered and disinfected to ensure that the finished water delivered into your home and business meets New York State's drinking water standards for microbial contamination.

Organic contaminants (which are the disinfection by-products of total trihalomethanes and haloacetic acids) were detected in our water in the last samples analyzed for them in 2012 and 2013. The reservoirs have a medium natural sensitivity to natural organic matter which is the precursor to the formation of the disinfection by-products. The presence of agricultural land cover in the watershed has an impact on the natural organic matter content of the water. The levels of disinfection by-product precursors have a low contaminant prevalence rating, and accordingly, the sources have a not rated susceptibility to the natural organic matter.

The reservoirs are protected from contamination by watershed rules and regulations found in the New York State Sanitary Code, sewage treatment regulations of the Schoharie County Sanitary Code, and land use review by the Town Planning Board and Zoning regulations. The Water Superintendent routinely inspects the watershed.

A copy of the assessment, including a map of the assessment area, can be obtained by contacting us, as noted above.

ARE THERE CONTAMINANTS IN OUR DRINKING WATER?

As the State regulations require, we routinely test your drinking water for numerous contaminants. These contaminants include: [total coliform bacteria](#), [turbidity](#), [22 inorganic compounds](#), [nitrate](#), [nitrite](#), [10 lead and copper samples at residences](#), [54 volatile organic compounds](#), [total trihalomethanes and other disinfection by-products](#), and [40 synthetic organic compounds and 5 radionuclides](#). The Superintendent takes measurements of chlorine, and turbidity in the distribution system and the plant. Filtration Plant has recorders that monitor turbidity and chlorine 24 hours per day as well. Every week five distribution samples for turbidity and free chlorine residual are done. The water does not have fluoride added to promote strong teeth.

The table presented below depicts which compounds were detected in your drinking water. The State allows us to test for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of our data, though representative, are more than one year old.

Definitions of terms you will find in the table of detected contaminants and the report:

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL): The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL) – The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water, based upon a running annual average of the samples. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG) – The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

Action Level (AL): The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

Treatment Technique (TT): A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU): A measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

Milligrams per liter (mg/l): Corresponds to one part of liquid in one million parts of liquid (parts per million - ppm).

Micrograms per liter (ug/l): Corresponds to one part of liquid in one billion parts of liquid (parts per billion - ppb).

Picocuries per liter (pCi/L): A measure of the radioactivity in water.

Table of Detected Contaminants							
Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Level Detected	Unit Measurement	MCLG Or MRDLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT, AL or MRDL)	Likely Source of Contamination
Turbidity All reported Filter measurements in 2013 were less than 1 NTU	No	daily	All less than 1 as required	NTU	N/A	TT is 95% of measurements less than 1 NTU	Soil runoff. Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of water. It has no health effects. It is used as a test because it is a good indicator of the filters' effectiveness.
Chloride	No	02/25/2009	16	mg/l	N/A	250	Naturally occurring
Copper	No	2013	Range detected 0.19 to 1.24	mg/l	1.3	1.3	Corrosion household plumbing systems, and water service lines. See below for further information.
Lead	No	2013	Range detected was 1 to 11	ug/l	Zero or not detected	15	Corrosion household plumbing systems, and water service lines. See below for further information.
Sodium	No	02/25/2009	10.7	mg/l	N/A	N/A see below for further information	Naturally occurring, road salt, water softeners, animal waste.
Sulfate	No	02/25/2009	9	mg/l	N/A	250	Naturally occurring and leaching from septic tanks.

Manganese Raw water See section below	No	03/20/2013 05/31/2013 09/26/2013 11/20/2013 12/26/2013	27 229 26 15 66	ug/l	N/A	300	Naturally occurring, erosion of natural deposits
Iron Raw water See section below	No	03/20/2013 05/31/2013 09/26/2013 11/20/2013 12/26/2013	96 138 203 425 68	ug/l	N/A	300	Naturally occurring, erosion of natural deposits.
Nickel	No	02/25/2009	1.6	ug/l	100	100	Naturally occurring, erosion of natural deposits, metal refineries, mining wastes
Total Trihalomethanes or TTHM	Yes See below for notice of violation	Quarterly 02/27/2013 05/31/2013 08/28/2013 11/20/2013 12/26/2013	88.5 92.3 127.5 930 48.1	ug/l	80	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination needed to kill harmful organisms. TTHMs are formed when source water or distribution system (biofilms) contains large amounts of organic matter.
Haloacetic acids or HAA5	Yes See below for notice of violation	Quarterly 02/27/2013 05/31/2013 08/28/2013 11/20/2013 12/26/2013	106.4 25.4 48 7 46.5	ug/l	60	60	By-product of drinking water chlorination needed to kill harmful organisms. HAA5 are formed when source water or distribution system (biofilms) contains large amounts of organic matter.
Chlorine residual	No	Daily and at time total coliform bacteria sample is collected	All less than 4 as required	mg/l	4 MRDLG	4 MRDL	By-product of drinking water chlorination. Chlorination is needed to kill harmful organisms if they get into the water
Nitrate	No	11/20/2013	0.23	mg/l	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage, erosion of natural deposits
Total Coliform Bacteria	No	12/26/2013	present	Present/ Absent	Zero or absent	Zero or absent	Naturally present in the environment.

WHAT DOES THIS INFORMATION MEAN?

As you can see by the table, our system had some violations. We have learned through our testing that some other contaminants have been detected; however, these other contaminants were detected below New York State requirements. We constantly test for various contaminants in the water supply to comply with regulatory requirements.

Chloride

The District is not in violation of the chloride limit. In fact, the chloride level is so low in the water it has no health effects. However, if chloride were present in the water at the MCL there may be objectionable tastes.

Copper

The District is not in violation of the Federal and State Lead and Copper Rule. None of the ten sites tested exceeded the action level of 1.3 mg/l. The range is shown in the table above. The 10 results are as follows: 0.19, 0.29, 0.3, 0.31, 0.59, 0.96, 1.05, 1.21, 1.24. Copper is an essential nutrient to your health. Some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the Action Level over a relatively short period of time could experience gastrointestinal distress. Some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the Action Level over many years could suffer liver or kidney damage. People with Wilson's Disease should consult their personal doctor. If you are concerned about the copper in the water flush your tap for approximately 2 minutes before using tap water to remove it from the drinking water. Monitoring is due again in summer 2016.

Lead

The District is not in violation of the Federal and State Lead and Copper Rule. The highest level of lead tested was 11 ug/l which is below the Action level of 15 ug/l. The table shows the range between 1 and 11 ug/l. The 10 results are as follows: 1, 2, 3, 3, 3, 4, 4, 5, 6, 11. The lead dissolves from the household plumbing and lead water service lines, and gets higher as the water sits motionless in the pipes for a longer period of time. Infants and children who drink water containing lead in excess of the action level could experience delays in their physical and mental development. Children could show slight defects in attention span and learning abilities. Adults who drink water containing lead in excess of the Action Level over many years could develop kidney problems or high blood pressure. Infants and young children are typically more vulnerable to lead in drinking water than the general population. It is possible that lead levels at your home may be higher than at other homes in the community as a result of materials used in your home's plumbing. If you are concerned about elevated lead levels in your home's water, you may wish to have your water tested. Flush your tap for approximately 2 minutes before using tap water. Additional information is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791). Monitoring is due again in summer 2016.

Sodium

Sodium is at a very low level in the water at 10.7 mg/l. Water containing more than 20 mg/l of sodium should not be used for drinking by people on severely restricted sodium diets. Water containing more than 270 mg/l of sodium should not be used for drinking by people on moderately restricted sodium diets. We do not have to monitor for sodium every year because the level has been historically low.

Sulfate

The amount of sulfate in the water is so low no health effects can be observed. At high levels, Sulfates can form scale on plumbing and cause diarrhea.

Manganese

If you notice color in the water contact the District so appropriate measures can be taken. The iron and manganese removal system is activated when levels of these metals begin to make the water yellow or brown.

The amount of manganese varies depending upon the time of year. It can be, at times, above limits because of seasonal changes in the reservoir water. Normally the level of manganese is so low no health effects can be observed. It is naturally occurring and is a beneficial nutrient. The Food and Nutrition Board of the National Research Council determined an estimated safe and adequate daily intake of manganese to be 2000 to 5000 ug/l for adults. However, many peoples' diets lead them to consume even higher amounts of manganese, especially those who consume high amounts of vegetables or are a vegetarian. The infant population is of the greatest concern if the water had manganese over the limit.

Excess manganese produces a brownish color in laundered goods and impairs the taste in coffee, tea and other beverages. Concentrations may cause a dark brown or black stain on porcelain plumbing fixtures. As with iron, manganese may form a coating on distribution pipes. These may slough off, causing brown blotches on laundered clothing or black particles in the water. When both manganese and iron are present the combined limit is 500 ug/l. We are required to monitor for it every calendar quarter. If you have problems with yellow or brown water please notify the District so appropriate actions may be taken.

Iron

If you notice color in the water contact the District so appropriate measures can be taken. The iron and manganese removal system is activated when levels of these metals begin to make the water yellow or brown.

Iron has no health effects. At 1,000 ug/l a substantial number of people will note the bitter astringent taste of iron. Also, at this concentration, it imparts a brownish color to laundered clothing and stains plumbing fixtures with a characteristic rust color. Staining can result at levels of 50 ug/l, lower than those detectable to taste buds. Therefore, the MCL of 300 ug/l represents a reasonable compromise as adverse as aesthetic effects are minimized at this level. Many multivitamins may contain 3000 or 4000 ug/l of iron per capsule. When both iron and

manganese are present the combined limit is 500 ug/l. We are required to monitor for it every calendar quarter. If you have problems with yellow or brown water please notify the District so appropriate actions may be taken.

Nickel There are no nickel mines in the United States but nickel can be found in the exhaust of oil burning plants and coal burning plants. Nickel can produce an allergic reaction to people who are sensitized to it, usually from wearing jewelry containing it. People who are not sensitized to it must consume large amounts of nickel in excess of the MCL over long periods of time to have increased risk of lung disease and reproductive effects.

Chlorine Residual. We are mandated to add chlorine to the water to kill any harmful organisms. Our chlorine levels are at acceptable levels and we must always have chlorine in the water. Chlorine residual is a by-product of drinking water chlorination. The MRDL of 4 mg/l was effective on January 1, 2004 and the MRDLG is 4 mg/l. The chlorine residual range at the entry point to the system met this standard in 2014.

Total Coliform Bacteria. A routine sample collected on December 26, 2013 showed the presence of total coliform bacteria and no E. coli present. Repeat samples are required to confirm and 6 were done on December 27, 2013 – only 4 were required. None showed total coliform bacteria or E. coli. Additional samples were done as required in January 2014 and 6 samples were done and none showed total coliform bacteria or E. coli. Therefore there is no violation and no threat to the drinking water. If there had been more unsatisfactory samples in December you would have been notified as required. The standard is that no more than 1 sample per month may have coliform bacteria. We collect at least one sample per month as required.

You do not need to boil your water or take other corrective actions. However, if you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor.

People with severely compromised immune systems, infants, and some elderly may be at increased risk. These people may want to seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers.

This was not an emergency. If it had been, you would have been notified immediately. Coliform bacteria are generally not harmful themselves. *Coliforms are bacteria which are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially-harmful, bacteria may be present. The presence of coliform bacteria are a warning of potential problems.*

Usually, coliforms are a sign that there could be a problem with the system's treatment or distribution system (pipes). Whenever we detect coliform bacteria in any sample, we also test to see if other bacteria or greater concern, such as *E. coli*, are present. **We did not find any *E. coli*.**

Total Trihalomethanes and Haloacetic acids (TTHM and HAA5)

See public notice below for these contaminants which shall satisfy the required notification for the first quarter 2014. The HAA5 levels in 2013 were below the maximum contaminant level in the third and fourth quarter so the system was in compliance and the notices apply to the first and second quarter 2013.

IS OUR WATER SYSTEM MEETING OTHER RULES THAT GOVERN OPERATIONS?

The Central Bridge Water District has a violation of the Sanitary Code because our Assistant Superintendent does not have appropriate grade certification (IIA). Our Assistant Superintendent has not become certified as required. Please contact the Superintendent at 265-0662 with any questions about the status of the Assistant's progress.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Central Bridge Water District Has Levels of Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) Above Drinking Water Standards, for the first and second quarter 2013. Our water system has recently violated a drinking water standard. Although this is not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened and what we are doing to correct this situation.

We routinely monitor your drinking water for the presence of drinking water contaminants. Test result of a sample collected in the first and second quarters confirmed that our system exceeds the standard, or maximum contaminant level

(MCL), for haloacetic acids. The running annual average in haloacetic acids samples taken during the first and second quarter was 158 and 147 micrograms per liter (ug/L). The standard for haloacetic acids is that the average of quarterly samples taken over the last year may not exceed 60 micrograms per liter (ug/L or parts per billion).

What does this mean?

Haloacetic acids are a group of chemicals that includes mono-, di- and trichloroacetic acids and mono- and dibromoacetic acids. Haloacetic acids are formed in drinking water during treatment by chlorine, which reacts with certain acids that are naturally-occurring organic matter (for example, decomposing vegetation such as tree leaves, algae, or other aquatic plants) in surface water sources such as rivers and lakes. The amount of haloacetic acids in drinking water can change from day to day, depending on the temperature the amount of organic material in the water, the amount of chlorine added, and a variety of other factors. Drinking water is disinfected by public water suppliers to kill bacteria and viruses that could cause serious illnesses. Chlorine is the most commonly used disinfectant in New York State. For this reason, disinfection of drinking water by chlorination is beneficial to public health.

Some studies suggest that people who drink chlorinated water for 20 to 30 years show that long term exposure to disinfection by-products (possibly including haloacetic acids) is associated with an increased risk for certain types of cancer. However, how long and how frequently people actually drank the water, as well as how much haloacetic acids the water contained is not known for certain. Therefore, we do not know for sure if the observed increased risks for cancer and other health effects are due to haloacetic acids, other disinfection by-products, or some other factor. The individual haloacetic acids, dichloroacetic acid and trichloroacetic acid cause cancer in laboratory animals exposed to high levels over their lifetimes. Dichloroacetic acid and trichloroacetic acid are also known to cause effects in laboratory animals after high levels of exposure, primarily on the liver, kidney, nervous system and on their ability to bear healthy offspring. Chemicals that cause effects in animals after high levels of exposure may pose a risk to humans exposed to similar or lower levels over long periods of time.

What should I do?

This is not immediate risk. If it had been, you would have been notified immediately. If you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor. You may wish to use bottled water certified for use in New York State to cook and drink until the problem is resolved.

Steps We Are Taking

Our engineer is developing a plan to resolve the violation. The District has appeared before Schoharie County Board of Health about the violation.

Central Bridge Water District Has Levels of Total Trihalomethanes Above Drinking Water Standards

Our water system has recently violated a drinking water standard. Although this is not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened and what we are doing to correct this situation.

We routinely monitor your drinking water for the presence of drinking water contaminants. Testing results conducted in 2013 and February 2014 confirmed that our system exceeds the standard, or maximum contaminant level (MCL), for total trihalomethanes. The running annual average in total trihalomethane samples taken during the last year was 135, 136, 103, 89, 88.875. The standard for total trihalomethanes is that the average of quarterly samples taken over the last year may not exceed 80 micrograms per liter (ug/L or parts per billion). This represents the required notification for the first quarter 2014.

What does this mean?

Trihalomethanes are a group of chemicals that includes chloroform, bromoform, bromodichloromethane, and chlorodibromomethane. Trihalomethanes are formed in drinking water during treatment by chlorine, which reacts with certain acids that are in naturally-occurring organic material (for example, decomposing vegetation such as tree leaves, algae or other aquatic plants) in surface water sources such as rivers and lakes. The amount of trihalomethanes in drinking water can change from day to day, depending on the temperature, the amount of organic material in the water, the amount of chlorine added, and a variety of other factors. Drinking water is disinfected by public water suppliers to kill bacteria and viruses that could cause serious illnesses. Chlorine is the most commonly used disinfectant in New York State. For this reason, disinfection of drinking water by chlorination is beneficial to public health.

Some studies suggest that people who drink chlorinated water (which contains trihalomethanes) or water containing elevated levels of trihalomethanes for long periods of time may have an increased risk for certain health effects. For example, some studies of people who drank chlorinated drinking water for 20 to 30 years show that long term exposure to disinfection by-products (including trihalomethanes) is associated with an increased risk for certain types of cancer. A few studies of women who drank water containing trihalomethanes during pregnancy show an association between exposure to elevated levels of trihalomethanes and small increased risks for low birth weights, miscarriages and birth defects. However, in each of the studies, how long and how frequently people actually drank the water, as well as how much trihalomethanes the water contained is not known for certain. Therefore, we do not know for sure if the observed increased risks for cancer and other health effects are due to trihalomethanes or some other factor. The individual trihalomethanes chloroform, bromodichloromethane, and dibromochloromethane cause cancer in laboratory animals exposed to high levels over their lifetimes. Chloroform, bromodichloromethane and dibromochloromethane are also known to cause effects in laboratory animals after high levels of exposure, primarily on the liver, kidney, nervous system and on their ability to bear healthy offspring. Chemicals that cause adverse health effects in laboratory animals after high levels of exposure may pose a risk for adverse health effects in humans exposed to lower levels over long periods of time.

What should I do?

This is not immediate risk. If it had been, you would have been notified immediately. If you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor. You may wish to use bottled water certified for use in New York State to cook and drink until the problem is resolved.

Steps We Are Taking

See section above in haloacetic acids under steps we are taking as these are related problems.

For more information on the contaminants and standards you may also call the EPA's Safe Drinking water Hotline: 1-800-426-4791, the EPA's Safewater Website www.epa.gov/safewater/ or the Schoharie County Department of Health at 518-295- 8382, 284 Main Street, Schoharie. For more information, please contact the Central Bridge Water District at 518-868-4852 or attend the District meeting the first Thursday of each month at the Methodist Church on Church Street, Central Bridge, at 7:30 PM.

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

This constitutes the required notification for the first quarter 2014.

Waivers

Our system has a waiver for sampling for 12 inorganic chemicals for the period of January 1, 2010 to December 31, 2018 because the contaminants are consistently below the MCLs or not detected at all in at least three rounds of sampling. These contaminants include: Arsenic, Antimony, Barium, Beryllium, Cadmium, Chromium, Cyanide, Fluoride, Mercury, Nickel, Selenium, and Thallium.

The system has a waiver from asbestos sampling because there is no use of materials containing asbestos in the system and the sources are not vulnerable to asbestos contamination from local industrial uses.

The THM, Haloacetic Acids and free chlorine residual measurements are required to have a monitoring plan that is available for review. Please contact the operator for details.

INFORMATION ON GIARDIA

Giardia is a microbial pathogen present in varying concentrations in many surface waters and groundwater under the influence of surface water. Giardia is removed/inactivated through a combination of filtration and disinfection or by disinfection. On September 25, 1995 The NYS Department of Health collected a water sample and analyzed for Giardia cysts. The result indicated that 2 presumed cysts were found in 3.857 gallons of untreated water. They were presumed to be Giardia at the time because the analytical method used could not distinguish whether

they were alive or dead or identified by their internal structures. Current test methods do not allow us to determine if the organisms are dead or if they are capable of causing disease. Ingestion of Giardia may cause giardiasis, an intestinal illness. People exposed to Giardia may experience mild or severe diarrhea, or in some instances no symptoms at all. Fever is rarely present. Occasionally, some individuals will have chronic diarrhea over several weeks or a month, with significant weight loss. Giardiasis can be treated with anti-parasitic medication. Individuals with weakened immune systems should consult with their health care providers about what steps would best reduce their risks of becoming infected with Giardiasis. Individuals who think that they may have been exposed to Giardiasis should contact their health care providers immediately. The Giardia parasite is passed in the feces of an infected person or animal and may contaminate water or food. Person to person transmission may also occur in day care centers or other settings where handwashing practices are poor. The filtration plant is designed to remove Giardia from the water.

DO I NEED TO TAKE SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS?

Some people may be more vulnerable to disease causing microorganisms or pathogens in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice from their health care provider about their drinking water. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium, Giardia and other microbial pathogens are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

WHY SAVE WATER AND HOW TO AVOID WASTING IT?

Although our system has an adequate amount of water to meet present and future demands, there are a number of reasons why it is important to conserve water:

- ♦ Saving water saves energy and some of the costs associated with both of these necessities of life;
- ♦ Saving water reduces the cost of energy required to treat the water; and
- ♦ Saving water lessens the strain on the water system during a dry spell or drought, helping to avoid severe water use restrictions so that essential fire fighting needs are met.

You can play a role in conserving water by becoming conscious of the amount of water your household is using, and by looking for ways to use less whenever you can. It is not hard to conserve water. Conservation tips include:

- ♦ Automatic dishwashers use 15 gallons for every cycle, regardless of how many dishes are loaded. So get a run for your money and load it to capacity.
- ♦ Turn off the tap when brushing your teeth.
- ♦ Check every faucet in your home for leaks. Just a slow drip can waste 15 to 20 gallons a day. Fix it and you can save almost 6,000 gallons per year.
- ♦ Check your toilets for leaks by putting a few drops of food coloring in the tank, watch for a few minutes to see if the color shows up in the bowl. It is not uncommon to lose up to 100 gallons a day from one of these otherwise invisible toilet leaks. Fix it and you save more than 30,000 gallons a year.
- ♦ If you have a water meter use it to detect hidden leaks. Simply turn off all taps and water using appliances, Then check the meter after 15 minutes, If it moved, you probably have a leak.

CLOSING

We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life and our children's future.